

The Chinese Question.

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE: I have read, not without astonishment, the contents of a letter signed by a man of the name of Marques, published in the *Advertiser*, of November 19th, and my attention has also been called to Anti-Mongolian's effusion published in the *Daily Bulletin*, of November 8th. Both these letters I have had explained to me, and according to my lights, I crave leave to make a few written remarks.

The whole of the charges in these letters are made with a view to bring the Chinese into utter contempt, so far as they are to be recognized as the chief factors in the prosperity of the main industries of these Islands, and the letter of Mr. Marques is apparently connected with the special view of upholding his Portuguese as super excellent to the Chinese, and with the result of extinguishing the Chinese labor market, and substituting his own pet labor, even at an increase of several dollars per month per head. I think it high time, Sir, that some one should have a word at least to say for us, and stand up for our rights according to equity. I say that the Chinese who have been coming to and going from this country for the last thirty-five years have more generally and without grumbling better conformed to the Hawaiian laws and regulations than any other foreigner (considering the large number), not even excepting Portuguese for whom Mr. Marques stands sponsor. The Chinese were invited here and many of them after residing a few years naturally have a desire to see their native land again; but they do not stay their time for a few years at work and then leave for the East—California, for instance, like the Portuguese, for good, taking their wives and families with them together with the little money saved by their labor: a Chinaman here either stays in the country which he likes and which has supported him and in which perhaps he has married a native wife and has children, or he leaves for a while on a visit to his long left relatives at home and after which he returns perhaps to end his days (as hundreds do) on Hawaiian soil. The Portuguese man with his family never, or rarely, returns; he has made a raise here sufficient to get on in another country and so this country loses him, his wife and his family for ever.

I would just wish to glance for a moment at the monetary position of the Chinese in this land—it is considered that the money derived from our countrymen and their trade is enormously large such as—

Customs, etc. \$350,000
Personal taxes. 120,000
Licenses, etc. 40,000

\$510,000

which sum of \$510,000 I only place as approximating to the truth, it may be more or perhaps only a trifle less. I say, Sir, that if these sums had not been forthcoming from us in the legitimate manner, as evidenced by statistics, it is a curious consideration for the Hawaiian nation to imagine what position she would have been in without it. I maintain, Sir, that the Chinamen have all along been quite as law abiding and good and faithful dwellers in the country, in proportion to numbers, as any other nationality (and more so in common justice to us). It is a fact that many low and base of all nationalities weed out from their own country and seek pastures new—many of these to reform and become decent members of society. Look at the statistics of the troublesome ones here, I mean foreigners from Europe, America and Asia. They disclose that those foreigners who have seriously contravened the law are in a much larger ratio than those of the Asiatic race. In fact I maintain that taking all things into consideration the Chinese pay more money to the Government, are more industrious and honorable in their business engagements and give less trouble to the authorities, in proportion to numbers, than Hawaiians or any other foreigners.

It is charged against the Chinese that those leaving here with passports never intend to return but sell them in Hongkong and elsewhere. This I maintain is a mere assertion of Mr. Marques. Where, pray, is the proof? I have reason to know that this Government takes good care that a swindler has no other chance than being detected quickly whether he tries it on here or in Hongkong. Until something more tangible than this cock-and-bull story of Mr. Marques is forthcoming, no sensible man will attach any dishonor to the Chinamen of Hawaiian domicile as a whole.

Suppose Mr. Marques' statement be true, that these passports be sold for \$50 to \$100 a piece, then it would cost a Chinaman from \$100 to \$200 for passport, passage, etc., at least before he lands here, and pray is it worth such a sum for a new man to pay to come here to work for such low wages as the planter (rice or sugar) can afford? The full song which Mr. Marques sings is, "Down with the Chinese; up with the Portuguese." I do not wish to disparage the Portuguese. They may do everything correct; they may mix with the natives or not (I believe it was at one time thought they would do so); there may be no gamblers or sneak thieves in their ranks and they may become settlers on the soil in limited numbers. The Chinaman goes his own fair way; performs his labor contracts most generally to the best satisfaction of his employers and is preferred to all other nationalities in that respect, as see late certificate of Mr. Spencer (I think) to that effect; he does not clear out when his term expires for a new country like the Portuguese. He either remains here and embarks in industries enterprise or takes a trip home to return with re-

newed health and strength. He marries into the native classes and shares with them the produce of his labor. What more can I say of my countrymen?

I have one other thing to say in reference to a statement that there are secret societies here supported by the subscriptions of the affluent, for the purpose of supporting members in idleness, in order to force employers to an increase of wages, etc. I say there are no such societies so supported. The wealthy and educated Chinamen here do not dispense their money and influence in keeping those supposed societies in existence, to the detriment of good morals, law and order, and therefore require no restriction. If the leading and affluent men of other foreign nations set such a good example as our leading and affluent men do in this Kingdom, I think there would be little fear of either bad government or dissatisfaction on the part of the people generally.

Ho Fox.
Honolulu, November 1st.

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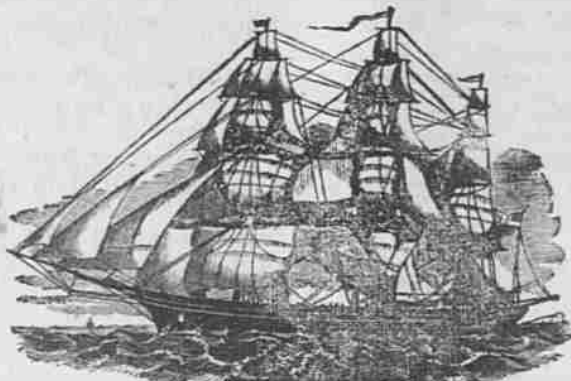
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